

Message Text

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43

ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 L-01 ARA-06 EUR-08 /071 W

----- 100859

R 040853Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6757

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, LE, PINS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF ROK CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT

REF: (A) SAO PAULO 2170 (NOTAL); (B) SEOUL 6387 (NOTAL)

1. ROKG HAS QUIETLY WITHDRAWN MOST OF ITS OFFICIALS AND ALL OF THEIR DEPENDENTS FROM BEIRUT. ACCORDING TO VFA, EVACUATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN RESPONSE TO INDICATIONS FROM ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE THAT JAPANESE RED ARMY IS PLANNING TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST KOREANS IN LEBANON.

2. MOFA MIDDLE EAST DIVISION CHIEF LEE TOLD EMBOFF NOV. 2 THAT STAFF OF ROK TRADE MISSION IN BEIRUT HAS BEEN CUT TO TWO, THAT OTHER OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO SEOUL, AND THAT OFFICES OF KOTRA (KOREAN TRADE PROMOTION CORPORATION) AND KOREAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE BANK HAVE BEEN RELOCATED IN AMMAN. ALTHOUGH LEE CALLED THE EVACUATION TEMPORARY, HE HAD NO IDEA WHEN THE THREAT OF TERRORIST ACTION MIGHT SUBSIDE.

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3. LEE DID NOT SPELL OUT NATURE OF RED ARMY THREAT. HOWEVER,

AS REPORTED IN REF A, MOFA EARLIER ALERTED ALL ROK POSTS TO
POSSIBILITY THAT RED ARMY WOULD ATTEMPT KIDNAP OR
ASSASSINATION AIMED AT FREEING MUN SE KWANG, KOREAN
RESIDENT OF JAPAN CURRENTLY IN ROK PRISON UNDER DEATH
SENTENCE FOR KILLING OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE'S WIFE
AND ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT. BEIRUT WAS SOURCE
OF EARLIER REPORTED RED ARMY THREAT AGAINST ROK REPORTED REF B.

4. LEE SAID THAT MOFA CURRENTLY HAS NO PLANS FOR
EVACUATION OF OTHER OVERSEAS POSTS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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